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## REVIEWS AND BOOK NOTICES.

INTRODUCTION TO GENERAL BIOLOGY.\*—Though the plan of this little manual is good, being identical with the arrangement of the examination questions in the Science and Art Department of Instruction at South Kensington, we cannot speak favorably of its execution, or advise the use of the book in this country, unless carefully revised. A want of special knowledge of the subject, and the usually execrable woodcuts, wherever not copied from other works, detract seriously from the value of the book.

PUBLICATIONS OF WHEELER'S SURVEY.†—Besides the maps issued by this survey we now have a Catalogue of Plants collected in the years 1871, 1872 and 1873, with descriptions of a few new species, by Mr. Sereno Watson and Dr. J. T. Rothrock, botanist, aided by Messrs. Hoopes, Olney, Vasey, Eaton, James and Austin.

The report upon the birds collected in Utah and Nevada during the same years, by Dr. Yarrow, abounds in notes on habits and geographical distribution.

THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIANA.‡—While this last year's report of the Survey is mainly on economic geology, as it should be, it contains some archæological and palæontological notes of interest.

## BOTANY.

YUCCA FILAMENTOSA.—Dr. Engelmann's interesting observations on the genus *Yucca*, and Prof. C. V. Riley's discoveries in relation to the yucca moth,§ have turned attention generally to this family of plants. The *Yucca filamentosa* is the species most commonly cultivated in the central United States. It is found

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\* An Introduction to the Study of General Biology, designed for the use of School and Science Classes. By Thomas C. MacGinley. With 124 illustrations. Putnam's Elementary Science Series. New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons. 12mo. pp. 199. Price 75 cts.

† Report upon Ornithological Specimens collected in the years 1871, 1872 and 1873. By Dr. H. C. Yarrow. Washington, D. C. 8vo. 1874. pp. 148. Catalogue of Plants collected in the years 1871, 1872 and 1873, with descriptions of New Species. Wheeler's Geographical and Geological Explorations and Surveys West of the 100th Meridian. Washington, D. C. 1874. 8vo. pp. 62.

‡ Fifth Annual Report of the Geological Survey of Indiana, made during the year 1873. By G. T. Cox, State Geologist, assisted by Prof. John Collett, Prof. W. W. Borden and Dr. G. M. Levette. Indianapolis, 1874. 8vo. pp. 494. With plates and maps.

§ Trans. St. Louis Acad. Science, 1873, and AMERICAN NATURALIST, vol. 7.